



George  
**LeMieux**  
U.S. Senator *for* Florida

## E- NEWSLETTER

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator and I look forward to hearing from you. If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov>.



### **Oil Spill Crisis Update**

Monday, I traveled in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in Northwest Florida to gather the latest information on the federal, state and local response to the oil spill disaster. Frankly, there is a lot of frustration in these areas connected to the lack of a sense of urgency surround the need for more equipment to mitigate the impacts of this disaster.

For several weeks, I have been asking President Obama, the Navy, the Coast Guard, and others to clear any bureacratic hurdles so that we can secure more assets for Gulf cleanup. I have set up a "skimmer watch" on my website to draw attention to the lack of assets. The good news is it appears the Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard have moved in this direction.



I commend the Administration for finally moving to clear bureaucratic hurdles so we can bring more skimmers to the Gulf. It is a shame this couldn't have been done sooner.



This Administration must also ensure financial assistance is expedited to the charter boat captains, marinas and small business owners who are victims of the BP spill.

Recently, BP followed my advice and committed to setting up an escrow to pay claims associated with this disaster. I commend the President for embracing the idea and pressuring the company to follow this course of action.

## **Second Amendment Affirmed, Again...**

This week, the United States Supreme Court issued its last set of rulings this session, including a decision in the case of *McDonald vs. City of Chicago*. The court ruled 5 to 4, affirming the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution and protecting Americans' individual right to bear arms.

Having reviewed the arguments in this case and attended the oral argument, I am convinced the Court's majority reached the proper conclusion. The right to bear arms is a substantive right that must be protected from unreasonable interference by federal, state, and local governments. Chicago's outright ban on handguns was rightly ruled unconstitutional. It is these kinds of decisions that must be made with a careful eye to the Constitution.

## **Supreme Court Nominee Appears Before the Senate**

In the coming weeks, the Senate will act on the nomination of U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan, selected by President Obama to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

I have met Solicitor General Kagan and look forward to a thorough evaluation of her record as an academic and lawyer for the government, and examining her responses before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In making my decision whether to support confirming this nominee to a lifetime position on the United States Supreme Court, I will look for a demonstrated commitment to the unbiased application of the law and an unwavering fidelity to the Constitution.

## **Moral Obligation to Control Government Spending**

The number one problem facing our country is out of control government spending. To be sure, Washington's out of control spending is not exclusively a Republican or Democrat problem, and it will take bipartisan cooperation to set our country back on a path to future prosperity.



Pending in the Senate right now is a solution I introduced creating a mechanism for Congress to cap federal spending at 2007 levels (\$2.7 trillion). If approved, my proposal would balance the overall federal budget by 2013 and cut the national debt nearly in half by 2020. I introduced the amendment to be considered as part of H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act.

## **Job and Business Resources**

Growing Florida's economy is critical to our state's future success. Knowing the difficult challenges our economy presents, our office is providing information for both employers and job seekers. Employers can access information about federal agencies that provide business information and assistance on our [Business Resources Page](#). Job seekers can learn more about job fairs, workforce training, and entrepreneurial opportunities on our [Job Fairs homepage](#). Since our office began hosting and promoting job fairs, more than 10,000 people have participated including 500 employers. Through these events, more than 2,000 Floridians have found work.

### **Upcoming job events:**

[WorkSource Virtual Job Fair](#) - July 12 - 16, 2010

[President's Job Fair - Central Florida Employment Council](#) - July 14, 2010

### **Casework Corner**

As your senator, one of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

Recently, our office received a call from a young cancer patient who was denied disability benefits due to insufficient proof of U.S. citizenship. While the constituent had derived U.S. citizenship from her adopted parents and had a valid U.S. Passport to prove her status, the Social Security Administration nonetheless denied her benefits.

Our office submitted a request for reconsideration to the Social Security Administration, demonstrating the patient's possession of a U.S. passport and explaining that a passport is an acceptable document to prove U.S. citizenship. Given the constituent's proof of U.S. citizenship, the Social Security Administrations agreed to provide a compassionate allowance and approved her disability claim.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to my website at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.